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Arizona Auto Theft Authority

2000 Annual Report

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SPEAKER'S OFFICE



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Mission Statement

To reduce vehicle theft through a statewide cooperative effort by supporting law enforcement investigation, prosecution and public awareness programs.

The Honorable Jane Dee Hull
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Hull:

It is with great pleasure that we present the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority's Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. We are proud to report that the AATA continues to achieve its mandates with significant accomplishments in vehicle theft prevention and that the auto theft rate has dropped again.

In its fourth year of operation, the AATA continues to strategically combat this threat to the quality of life for all citizens of Arizona. By focusing on cooperative statewide efforts supporting law enforcement investigations, prosecution and public awareness programs, the AATA proceeds in the fight against automobile theft.

To reach these goals, the authority has awarded **\$1.9 million** in grants to fund such efforts as law enforcement education, vehicle theft recovery and prosecution of auto theft criminals. These grants have been directly responsible for the recovery of more than **\$20 million** in stolen vehicles in 1999 and the felony arrest of **265** car thieves.

Vehicle theft in Arizona dropped **5.3** percent in calendar 1999 over 1998, and early indicators for 2000 show that auto theft continues to decline. National and state officials have agreed that the AATA is a major contributor to this decline.

A diverse and rapidly growing population, limited prevention resources and close proximity to Mexico create special challenges for those working to reduce automobile theft in Arizona. However, the AATA is meeting these challenges head on.

New programs designed to build international cooperative efforts will target border interdiction initiatives. Investigative efforts will continue to return millions of dollars to the insurance industry. Tougher sentences will serve as a deterrent to potential thieves, and, public awareness programs will help Arizonans protect themselves from being victimized by this insidious crime.

As you know, vehicle theft remains the most significant property crime in the nation. Insurance industry estimates indicate that billions are paid in claims every year with respect to vehicle theft in the United States.

The AATA remains committed to decreasing the vehicle theft rate in the state with support from law enforcement, the insurance industry, community organizations and corporate partners, and looks forward to continued dedication to the citizens of Arizona.

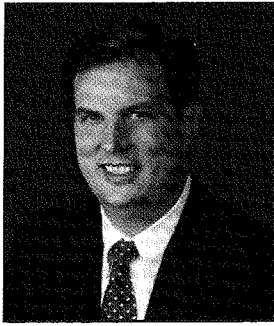
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Robson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Robson
Chairman of the Board

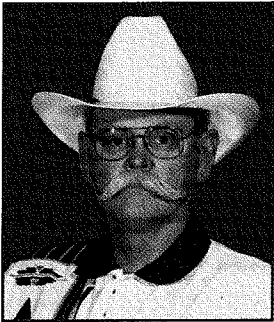
board of directors

June 30, 2000



Bob Robson, Chairman of the Board
Owner, Farmers Insurance Agency

Mr. Robson was appointed to the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) Board of Directors in 1996 and has been chairman since 1997. In addition to his involvement with the board, Mr. Robson has served as vice mayor and city council member for the City of Chandler since 1992. Mr. Robson has a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.



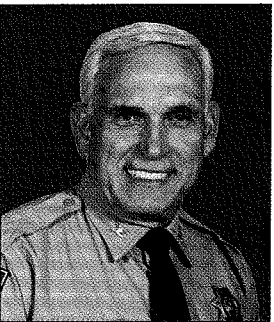
Ralph E. Ogden, Vice Chairman
Sheriff, Yuma County

Sheriff Ogden began his career in law enforcement more than 30 years ago and currently is in his second term of office as County Sheriff. Sheriff Ogden joined the Yuma County Sheriff's office as Chief Deputy in 1980 and was elected County Sheriff in 1993. His experience includes four years in the Marine Corps, Chief Deputy for the Yuma County Sheriff's Office and a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Sheriff Ogden has been a member of the AATA Board since 1997.



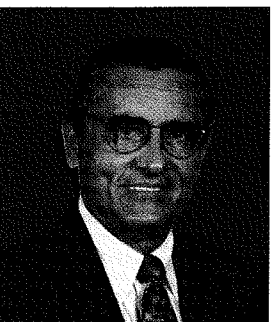
William J. Ekstrom
Mohave County Attorney

Mr. Ekstrom has held the position of Mohave County Attorney since 1979. A third generation Arizonan, Mr. Ekstrom received his bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University and his jurist doctor degree from Arizona State University. Appointed to the AATA Board in 1997, Mr. Ekstrom brings more than 25 years of extensive government experience to the authority.



Dennis Garrett
Director, Department of Public Safety

Mr. Garrett was named director of the Department of Public Safety by Gov. Jane Dee Hull in 2000, the same year he was appointed to the AATA Board of Directors. Director Garrett brings 35 years of experience with the Phoenix Police Department, where he served as Police Chief and has worked in every division and major bureau of the organization. Mr. Garrett has a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University and a master's degree in public administration from Arizona State University.



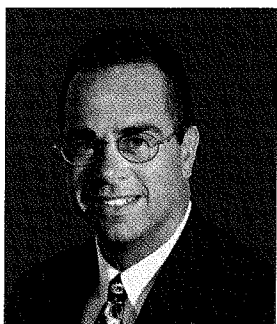
Alberto Gutier
Director, Governor's Office of Highway Safety

Mr. Gutier has been a member of the AATA Board of Directors since 1997. He was appointed to director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety in 1995 and has been a member of Gov. Jane Dee Hull's cabinet since October 1997. Mr. Gutier brings to the Board 11 years of law enforcement experience with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, where he progressed to the rank of Commander of the Reserve Program.



Harold L. Hurtt
Chief, Phoenix Police Department

Chief Hurtt has served as Phoenix Police Department Chief of Police since 1998. With more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, Chief Hurtt has held various positions including Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief. A member of the AATA Board for two years, Chief Hurtt has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Arizona State University and a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.



Michael Payne
Section Manager, Special Investigative Unit State Farm Insurance Companies

Mr. Payne has a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in criminal justice. After beginning his career as an auto claim representative for State Farm Insurance, Mr. Payne was promoted to State Farm's Investigative Unit where he currently serves as a section manager. In this position, he is responsible for investigations in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico. Mr. Payne has been a member of the AATA Board since 1999.



Ellen Poole
Executive Vice President, Arizona Bankers Association

Ms. Poole, who joined the Arizona Bankers Association 1996, had previously served three years as the legislative research analyst for the Arizona State Senate Banking and Insurance Committee. Prior to that she practiced law with the Arizona firm of Lewis and Roca. Ms. Poole earned her law degree from George Washington University and holds two bachelors degrees from Virginia Tech. She joined the AATA Board of Directors in 2000.



Stacey K. Stanton
Director, Motor Vehicle Division, Arizona Department of Transportation

Ms. Stanton was appointed to lead the state's Motor Vehicle Division in December 1999. She has worked with the Motor Vehicle Division for five years, overseeing the division's customer service program in Phoenix and later, heading the division's legislative program and policy unit. Ms. Stanton, who has been a member of the AATA Board for one year, has a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University.

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Staff

Paul Mortensen
Executive Director

Ann Armstrong
Public Information Officer

Paul Boelhauf
Administrative Services Officer

Arthur Myer
Administrative Assistant

executive summary

Introduction

The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) operates on a fiscal year budgeting cycle from July through June.

All auto theft statistics included in this report are based on a calendar year ending December 31, 1999 including those statistics quoted from the 1999 Uniform Crime Report published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

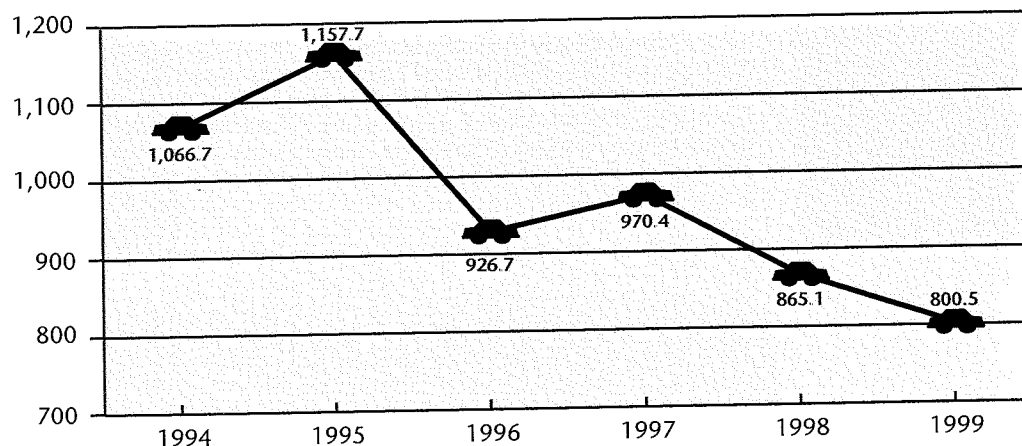
Summary

The 1999 Uniform Crime Report points out that in the State of Arizona one motor vehicle theft occurs every thirteen minutes, for an average of 104 vehicles stolen every (24) hours. In the U.S., for the same time frame, over one million vehicles were stolen which produced an average of one theft every 27 seconds.

Vehicle theft in Arizona dropped 5.3 percent in 1999 to the lowest theft rate in more than five years, according to the 1999 FBI Uniform Crime Report. Arizona reported 38,247 vehicle thefts in 1999 down from 40,391, in 1998.

**even with Arizona's
population boom,
a continued decline
in vehicle theft
is an encouraging sign**

Arizona – Vehicle Theft Rate* 1994 - 1999



***Motor Vehicle Theft Rate Per 100,000 Inhabitants**

Information obtained from the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation "Crime in the United States" Uniform Crime Report

This decrease follows a continued downward trend in Arizona's vehicle theft problem for the fourth straight year. In 1995, the theft rate reached a high of 48,019. The overall percentage change from 1995 through 1999 represents a total four-year decline of 20.3 percent.

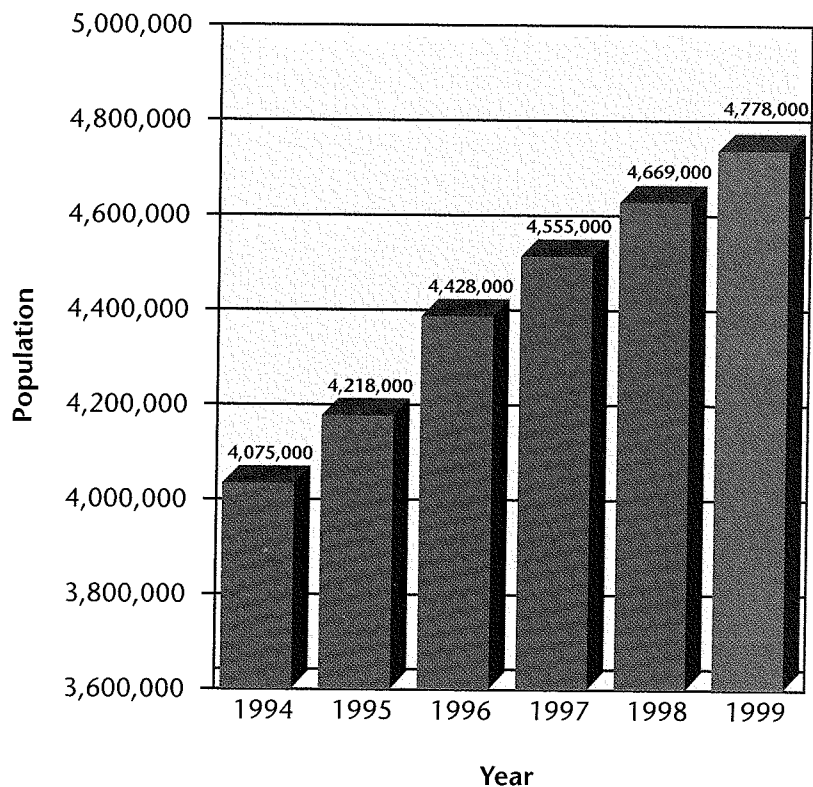
Arizona ranks 10th in the nation in actual number of vehicles stolen, and remains second in the country for vehicle thefts per capita behind Washington D.C. The theft rate has decreased from 865.1 per hundred thousand population in 1998 to 800.5 in 1999. Although there has been progress, these statistics reinforce the importance of the AATA's efforts to continue to combat the state's vehicle theft problem.

According to recent demographic reports, Arizona is among the fastest growing states in the nation. This growth rate becomes a factor in all aspects of pronounced societal behavior, including criminal activity. It should be noted that even with Arizona's population boom, a continued decline in vehicle theft is an encouraging sign.

The AATA has become a model program for other states because it has developed original initiatives addressing important border issues and other concerns not only specific to the State of Arizona but useful to other states.

The agency is governed by a nine-member board of directors appointed by the Governor and other organizations and includes representatives of law enforcement, automobile insurers and consumers of automobile insurance. The AATA has a four-person staff responsible for executing the State's strategic plan to reduce vehicle theft through a statewide cooperative effort by supporting law enforcement investigation, prosecution and public awareness programs.

Arizona's Population 1994 - 1999





executive summary continued

Each year the board of directors awards grants to law enforcement agencies and/or prosecutors' offices. These grant programs work to prevent automobile theft, apprehend thieves and convict vehicle theft criminals.

In fiscal year 2000, the AATA focused all of its grant allocation to The Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF) because of its intense investigative efforts and positive stolen vehicle recovery results. The AVTTF was established to coordinate a statewide law enforcement effort to combat vehicle theft. The mission of the AVTTF is to reduce vehicle theft in the State of Arizona by deterring criminal activity through proactive enforcement and prosecution.

The grant funds awarded by the Authority have dramatically improved motor vehicle theft law enforcement by establishing a task force to work together against this crime throughout the state. The \$5,742,745 granted by the Authority from 1997 through 2000 has resulted in \$54 million in the recovery of stolen vehicles and reduction of theft rates – a return of over \$10 for every dollar spent.

The following pages describe the efforts of the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority in combating vehicle theft.

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initiatives

Each of the three branches of the AATA – public awareness, investigation and prosecution – **work together to combat all areas of vehicle theft.**

Public Awareness and Education

In Arizona the public is more mindful of vehicle theft and how to avoid it than ever before. Thanks to the Authority's extensive public awareness programs since 1998.

Because awareness promotes prevention, public education programs have proven crucial to the success of any crime prevention initiative. The AATA deems its public awareness campaign as an important component of its overall effort to reduce the vehicle theft rate in Arizona.

The goal of public awareness is to educate Arizona citizens to understand the significance of automobile theft and learn a few simple steps to protect their cars from theft.

The AATA retained a public relations firm, to develop and execute its public

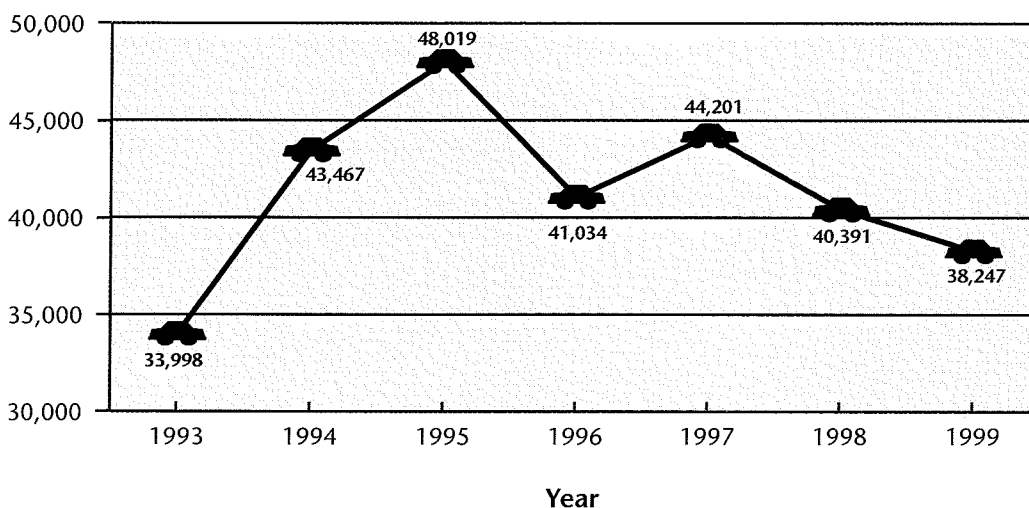
awareness initiatives, such as media coverage, community events, billboard and radio advertisements.

Public awareness initiatives for 1999-2000 focused on maximizing visibility through media relations. Press releases were distributed regularly to encourage consistent coverage of the AATA's efforts and other related newsworthy topics. As a result of these press releases and media relations, the AATA participated in numerous television, radio and newspaper interviews that generated more than 3 million media impressions. Some of the topics included the success of the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF), consumer protection and crime statistics.

During 2000, the AATA introduced two successful public awareness campaigns, including the state's first Automobile Theft Prevention Week in March. The week culminated with a press conference and automobile dismantling demonstration on the Capitol Square. The event resulted in extensive media coverage for the Authority throughout the state.

Arizona Vehicle Theft

1993 - 1999



Source: Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force

initiatives continued

In addition, the AATA developed a media campaign in response to a Hollywood movie titled, "Gone in 60 Seconds." The feature film glorified automobile theft and portrayed the thieves as heroes. AATA representatives conducted TV, radio and newspaper interviews and distributed auto theft prevention information at movie theaters. The campaign received significant media coverage, again publicizing the agency's mission to reduce automobile theft throughout the state.

The AATA also conducted grass roots public awareness campaigns targeting individual communities throughout the state. The AATA participated in numerous Watch Your Car registration drives and community events. The following are examples of the types of events in which the AATA participated during fiscal year 1999-2000.

- Neighborhood Safety Fairs
- State Employee Appreciation Day – Phoenix
- State Employee Appreciation Day – Tucson
- Recreation Centers in Sun City
- State University Community Events
- Police Department Safety Fairs
- Sunday on Central Community Event
- Mesa Crime Prevention Advisory meeting
- Shopping Mall Public Safety Events
- Shopping Mall Crime Prevention Week
- Arizona State Fair
- Salt River Project Safety Day
- Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (GAIN)

Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Activity Report

The following represents a comprehensive breakdown of AVTTF activity from 1997, 1998 and 1999.

	Calendar Yr 1997	Calendar Yr 1998	Calendar Yr 1999	Completed Calendar Yr Total	January– August 2000	Current Total
Total Value of Recoveries	\$5,613,896	\$12,820,974	\$20,122,996	\$38,557,866	\$15,271,479	\$53,829,345
Stolen Vehicle Recoveries	755	1,468	2,269	4,492	1,593	6,085
Chop Shops	24	21	35	80	20	100
Altered/Switched VINs	131	196	373	700	257	957
Felony Arrests	140	161	265	566	179	745
Adults	122	140	257	518	176	695
Juveniles	15	21	8	44	3	47
Insurance Fraud Cases	11	24	65	100	29	129
Business Inspections	6	13	60	79	66	145
Border Interdiction Programs	2	5	3	10	0	10
PACE Programs	17	28	22	67	6	73
Training Provided	7	21	68	96	35	131
Assist to Other Agencies	170	795	553	1,518	507	2,025

Along with community events, AATA representatives regularly participated in numerous public forums throughout the state, including radio and television interviews, neighborhood watch meetings, national and international conferences, crime prevention seminars, automobile insurance trade organization meetings, law enforcement conferences, training classes and community gatherings.

Radio, billboard and gas station advertising heightened public awareness throughout the state in the spring of 2000. The AATA also conducted a three-month-long advertising campaign featuring auto theft prevention messages that targeted audiences while they were driving. The AATA placed 37 billboards, broadcast 1,342 radio advertisements and posted 364 posters at gas pumps. The messages were simple and encouraged drivers to protect their vehicles using the Watch Your Car program.

The AATA produced a Public Service Announcement that was sent to every tele-

vision station across the state promoting the Watch Your Car program. The spot began airing in mid-2000 and will continue to run throughout the year.

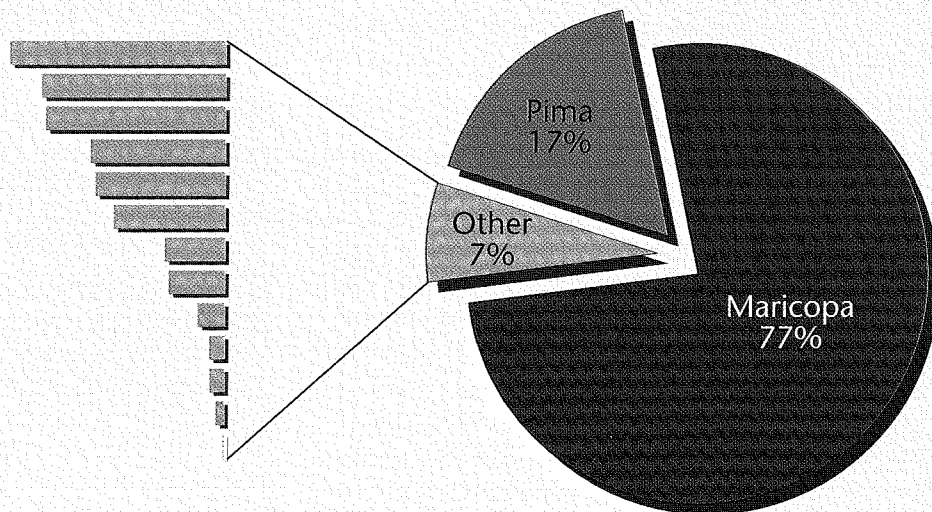
An educational video was produced outlining all activities of the AATA, offering information on the Watch Your Car program and featuring interviews with insurance executives, city officials and legislators. The video is used to educate the public at community and civic meetings, as well as offer general information on the AATA to law enforcement personnel and legislators.

It is through the combined effort of all of the extensive public information processes that the AATA has registered more than 8,300 Arizona residents in the Watch Your Car program. Also, the AATA has mailed nearly 97,000 English and Spanish informational brochures to residents and community organizations interested in protecting themselves from becoming victims of vehicle theft.

Arizona Vehicle Thefts

By County 1999

Pinal	470
Mohave	400
Cochise	391
Yuma	293
Yavapi	282
Coconino	242
Santa Cruz	130
Navajo	121
Gila	57
Graham	32
La Paz	31
Apache	17
Greenlee	1





initiatives continued

A toll-free number was established to allow residents easy access to program information. This hotline has received more than 8,200 telephone calls as of June 2000. The AATA also has a Web site that offers the Watch Your Car registration form through the Internet.

Prosecution

The AATA's mission is balanced between investigation, public awareness, and prosecution. In this regard, funds became available and grants are being awarded in 2001 to Maricopa, Pima as well as Pinal County Attorney Offices, which represent the counties which have the highest vehicle theft rate in the State. The grants will be awarded with the agreement that cases brought by the Task Force will take priority and will be subject to vertical Prosecution. In addition to the prosecution process, the attorney will work with the Task Force to offer legal training and provide advice on cases under investigation.

Effective prosecution of vehicle theft is a key deterrent to this serious property crime which affects the quality of life for many of our citizens. The AATA regards its working relationship with county attorneys as one of the most important steps in dealing with the criminal element responsible for the expensive victimization of the public.

Investigation

The Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force (AVTTF), was established to coordinate a statewide law enforcement effort to combat vehicle theft. The mission of the Task Force is to reduce vehicle theft in the State of Arizona by deterring criminal activity through proactive enforcement and prosecution.

The Task Force serves as a statewide resource for the investigation of property crimes involving vehicles, related components and insurance fraud. The Task Force provides technical expertise and training as

well as investigative support to law enforcement agencies targeting vehicle theft. The Task Force is comprised of local and state law enforcement agencies, along with other entities participating in a concerted effort to identify, apprehend and prosecute individuals and criminal organizations that profit from the theft of motor vehicles, related criminal activity and insurance fraud.

The AVTTF is administered by the Department of Public Safety through a grant from the AATA. The Task Force commenced limited operation in 1997, with two enforcement squads in Maricopa County and one in Pima County. Currently the AVTTF is represented by 15 different agencies, with personnel in Cochise, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yavapai and Yuma Counties. Task Force personnel routinely respond to requests for assistance in other Arizona counties as well.

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The Task Force, operational for less than four years, is already recognized as one of the premier units of its kind in the nation. The AVTTF was presented the 1999 Vehicle Theft Award of Merit, co-sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Most importantly, the AATA, Department of Public Safety and participating agencies have established a strong partnership, which has been integral to the success of the Task Force. Members of the Task Force, representing 15 different agencies, have worked diligently to combat vehicle theft and related crimes throughout the State of Arizona.

The results of the Task Force's initiatives have been substantial. For every dollar that the AATA funded in calendar year 1999, the Task Force has recovered **\$10.56** in stolen property for the citizens of Arizona. This translates to an average of **63** stolen vehicles recovered per Task Force officer in 1999. This is a notable increase over 1998 when the task force recovered \$6.41 in stolen property for every AATA dollar expended.

In 1999 the AVTTF's operations surpassed the impressive results of 1998. The Task Force recovered **2,269** stolen vehicles in 1999, with an estimated value of more than **\$20** million. This represents a 50% increase in the recovery of stolen vehicles from 1998 to 1999.

Additionally, the Task Force investigated and shut down **35** "chop shops" and investigated **65** insurance fraud cases. The Task Force has made **265** felony arrests, which is a 65% increase over 1998.

The Task Force also provided training to more than 1,000 law enforcement personnel throughout the state and was actively involved in public awareness and community education programs.

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initiatives continued

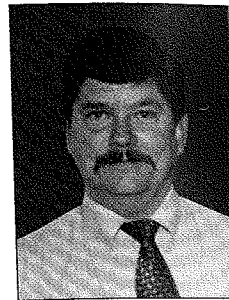
Task Force Officer of the Year

Detective James "Dutch" Lister was named Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force Officer of the Year for 1999.

Detective Lister is one of the original members of the Task Force representing the Phoenix Police Department. Prior to joining the Task Force, he was assigned to the Phoenix Police Department's auto theft detail for four years. Detective Lister, has more than 22 years of law enforcement experience, and was recognized by his fellow officers as one of the top auto theft investigators in the state.

Task Force Commander Lt. Mikel Longman said that Detective Lister was recognized because he goes above and beyond the normal duties of a Task Force officer to provide personal training to new Task Force members across the state.

Detective Lister consistently records significant results in auto theft recoveries. During 1999, Lister recovered 122 stolen vehicles valued at \$1.5 million. During the past three years as a Task Force officer, Lister has recovered 252 stolen vehicles valued at \$2.8 million and made 40 arrests for auto theft related violations. Detective Lister has been involved in a number of auto theft investigations during his time with the Task Force, including a complex interstate auto theft ring in 1999 for which he coordinated efforts with the FBI, the Texas Department of Public Safety and local police officers in the Lubbock, Texas area.



Detective James Lister

watch your car



Participating Agencies in the Arizona Automobile Theft Task Force

Cochise County

Arizona Department of Public Safety 1 detective
Cochise County Sheriff's Department 1 deputy

Maricopa County

Arizona Department of Public Safety 1 lieutenant,
3 sergeants,
10 detectives

Arizona Department of Insurance 1 special agent
Chandler Police Department 1 detective
Glendale Police Department 1 detective
Mesa Police Department 1 detective
Motor Vehicle Division 1 special
investigator

National Insurance Crime Bureau 1 special agent
Peoria Police Department 1 detective
Phoenix Police Department 1 sergeant,
4 detectives

Scottsdale Police Department 1 detective
Tempe Police Department 1 sergeant

Pima County

Arizona Department of Public Safety 1 sergeant,
3 detectives

Marana Police Department 1 detective
Motor Vehicle Division 1 special
investigator

Tucson Police Department 1 sergeant,
2 detectives

Pinal County

Arizona Department of Public Safety 1 detective

Santa Cruz County

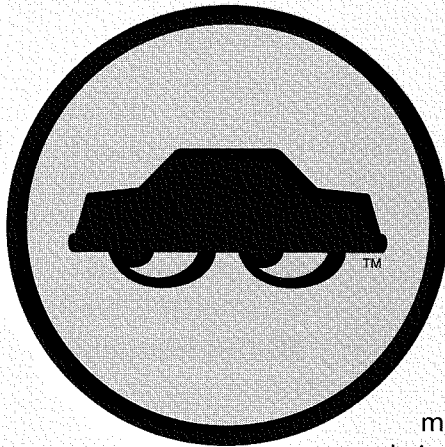
Arizona Department of Public Safety 2 detectives
Motor Vehicle Division 1 special
investigator

Yavapai County

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office 1 detective

Yuma County

Arizona Department of Public Safety 1 detective
Yuma County Sheriff's Office 1 deputy



The Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 1994 authorized the U.S. Attorney General to develop, in cooperation with the states, a national voluntary motor vehicle theft prevention program. The national Watch Your Car program is designed as a cooperative initiative between the states and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Arizona is part of the program sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, receiving an additional \$50,000 grant to assist in funding the Watch Your Car program.

Participants in the program affix a Watch Your Car decal to their vehicle that invites any law enforcement official to stop and/or check the vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. A significant number of automobile thefts are committed during the early morning hours when owners are asleep and unaware that their vehicles have been stolen.

To enroll, vehicle owners simply sign a consent form. The Watch Your Car program is free and open to all citizens with cars registered in Arizona. The purpose of the Watch Your Car program is to identify vehicles that are not routinely operated during the early morning hours so that law enforcement officers can investigate before a stolen vehicle report has been filed.

To promote the Watch Your Car program, the AATA participates in community events such as festivals, fairs, shopping center events and homeowner's association meetings. Also, public information offices of various law enforcement agencies disseminate information about the program to organizations and companies throughout the state. AATA also advertises the program on billboards and has received considerable media coverage.

financial report

Arizona Automobile Theft Authority Fund

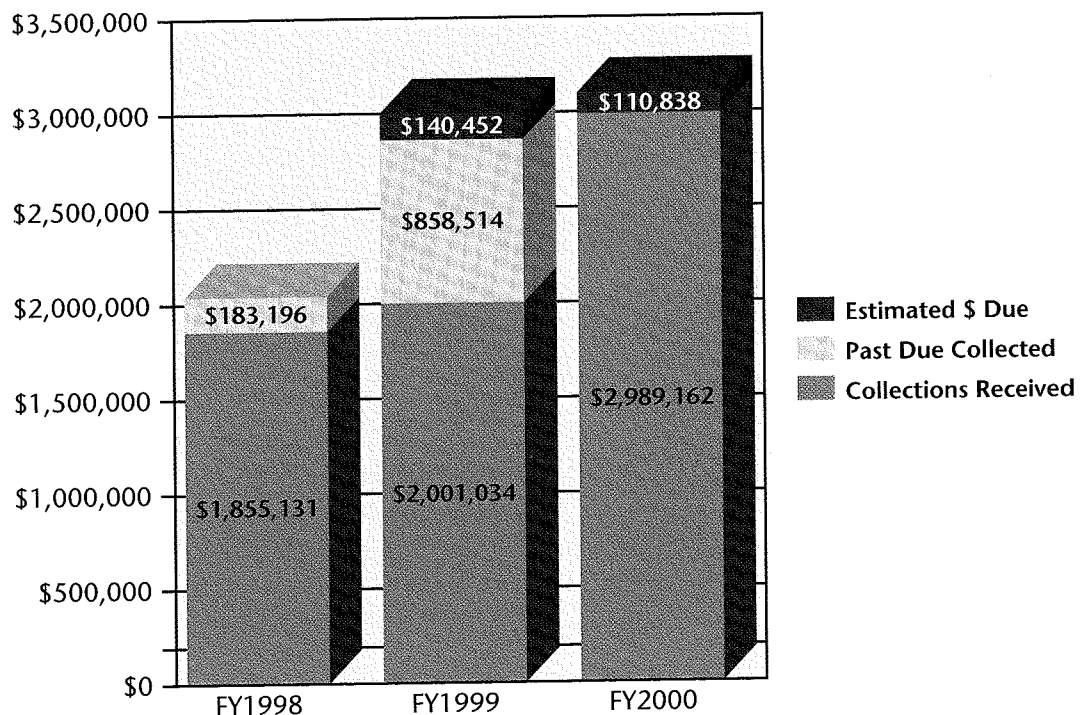
Financial Report For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2000

Revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000 was \$4,067,298, which was an increase of 103% over the total revenues from the prior year of \$2,009,811. In the fiscal years ending June 30, 1998 and the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999 most insurance companies were calculating the assessment to the Automobile Theft Authority Fund based on a pro rata method known as earned car years. However, effective July 1, 1997, the Arizona Legislature changed the assessment calculation to actual number of vehicles insured by an insurance company.

During fiscal years 1998 and 1999 the Agency experienced a shortfall of revenue due to the fact that most insurers were still calculating their assessment on the earned car year method. During the current fiscal year the Agency discovered that the insurers were using the wrong method. As a result of this discovery, the AATA began an internal audit of each insurer from the assessment period ending December 31, 1997 forward. In each instance where it appeared that an insurer had used the wrong method, the company was contacted by the Agency to insure compliance with the statute.

As a result of this internal audit, current year revenue consisted of \$1,041,710 in past due assessments, and \$2,989,162 in current year revenue. Interest earned for the year was \$36,425.

Revenue Collections



Source: Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force

Arizona Auto Theft Authority Fund

Statement of Operations for Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000

	FISCAL YEAR 1999	FISCAL YEAR 2000	FUND BALANCE	
			FISCAL YEAR 1999	FISCAL YEAR 2000
Beginning Fund Balance			\$ 250,986.78	\$ 17,415.59
Revenues				
Other Fees & Charges for Services	\$ 2,001,034.70	\$4,030,872.77		
Restricted Donations	0.00	0.00		
Interest Income	8,776.20	36,424.86		
Operating Transfers In	0.00	0.00		
Total Revenues	\$ 2,009,810.90	\$4,067,297.63		
Expenditures				
Personal Services	166,048.68	141,611.40		
Employer Related Expenditures	29,216.63	26,026.01		
Professional & Outside Services	117,422.74	91,749.31		
Travel In-State	6,085.72	2,389.30		
Travel Out-of-State	4,341.40	13,148.72		
Aid to Organizations & Individuals	1,770,276.94	1,911,300.00		
Other Operating Expenditures	130,944.28	212,077.76		
Non-Capital Equipment	19,045.70	21,355.93		
Operating Transfers Out	0.00	0.00		
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,243,382.09	\$2,419,658.43		
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures			<u>\$(233,571.19)</u>	<u>\$1,647,639.20</u>
Ending Fund Balance			<u>\$ 17,415.59</u>	<u>\$1,665,054.79</u>



future of the AATA

The AATA will continue to work to reduce vehicle theft in Arizona with improved efforts and initiatives based on four years of experience and research. By continuing to work with the AVTTF, law enforcement offices throughout the state and in local communities, it is anticipated that the state will experience a significant vehicle theft reduction.

Currently the AVTTF is represented by 15 different agencies, with personnel in 7 counties. The Task Force intends to expand its service to the public and criminal justice communities statewide. This includes adding officers when necessary, participating in cooperative enforcement programs throughout the state, providing quality training and education programs to task force members and improving deterrence efforts through advanced investigations.

In addition to the Task Force, the AATA has been proactively investigating the vehicle theft problem as it relates to the Arizona-Mexico border. Initial agreements have been established with the Mexican government, and now the AATA is researching a project that would lessen insurance fraud due to abandoned U.S. vehicles in Mexico. The project would improve vehicle recovery for all American automobiles discovered in Mexico and help identify stolen vehicles as they cross the border.

The AATA hopes to implement a program that would increase communication between law enforcement agencies in Arizona and Mexico. The program would install computers in Mexican law enforcement agencies that share the border with Arizona. This program will provide Mexican authorities the list of stolen vehicles from Arizona.

In addition, the AATA would initiate a partnership with U.S. Customs to digitally photograph all vehicles as they cross the

border from Arizona into Mexico. This computer program would read each automobile's license plate and identify any stolen vehicles listed in the Motor Vehicle Division's database.

All grant funds were distributed to the AVTTF in fiscal year 1999; however, in 2000 the AATA will distribute grant funds to a variety of law enforcement agencies throughout the state, as well as continuing to provide grant money to AVTTF.

The focus of the individual law enforcement agency grants will be for public awareness, but will also assist in anti-theft projects or special law enforcement needs, relating to vehicle theft.

Grass roots public awareness campaigns will continue to be important for the Watch Your Car program. During 2000 – 2001, the AATA will target senior citizens, who've shown a particular interest in protecting their vehicles through the Watch Your Car program. In addition, the AATA will offer tips and Watch Your Car literature to university students and at community colleges.

In the past year, the AATA has made significant strides in collecting the state's mandated fees from a number of insurance companies. The AATA will continue its collection efforts to ensure that all automobile insurance companies operating in the state of Arizona are complying with the state funding mandates.

The increase revenue has allowed the AATA to increase its budget request to the state Legislature from \$2.2 million in fiscal 2000/2001 to \$3.9 million for the 2002/2003 budget cycle. These funds will be devoted to increasing funding for all of the AATA's programs.

special thanks

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Barbara La Wall, Pima County Attorney

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City of Chandler Police Department

City of Glendale Police Department

City of Mesa Police Department

City of Peoria Police Department

City of Phoenix Police Department

City of Scottsdale Police Department

City of Tucson Police Department

Cochise County Sheriff's Department

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Motor Vehicle Division

The National Insurance Crime Bureau

Pima County Sheriff's Department

The Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority

Town of Marana Police Department

Yavapai County Sheriff's Department

Yuma County Sheriff's Department